

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00461 200342Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /068 W  
-----092706 210009Z /66

R 190855Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9199  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0461

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652C XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD  
TAGS: SREF PGOV PORT PINS VM (UNHCR) CB  
SUBJECT: SRV-DK FIGHTING AND SRV CLOSURE OF HO CHI MINH CITY BUSINESSES

POSE REFUGEE PROBLEMS FOR UNHCR

REF VIENTIANE 0243

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO VISITED VIET NAM IN EARLY  
APRIL TOLD US APRIL 19 THAT UNHCR OFFICIALS IN HANOI  
WERE CONCERNED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF ETHNIC CHINESE  
RESIDENTS OF HO CHI MINH CITY (CHO LON) MIGHT TURN TO  
THE UNHCR FOR ASSISTANCE IN LEAVING VIET NAM. THE  
UNHCR WAS AWARE THAT MOST OF THESE CHINESE CARRIED  
CHINESE PASSPORTS THEREBY MAKING THEM TECHNICALLY IN-  
ELIGIBLE FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE.

2. THE UNHCR REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT THE VIETNAMESE  
GOVERNMENT IS VERY ANXIOUS TO GET RID OF THE ETHNIC  
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CHINESE POPULATION OF HO CHI MINH CITY AND MIGHT  
FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE OF THESE CHINESE FROM VIETNAM  
WITH OR WITHOUT PASSPORTS.

3. THE PROBLEM OF CHINESE RESIDENTS URGENTLY WISHING  
TO LEAVE VIET NAM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PRECIPITATED BY  
THE CLOSURE OF VIRTUALLY ALL PRIVATE BUSINESSES IN HO

CHI MINH CITY BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. THE SOURCE FOR THIS REPORT SPOKE TO A WESTERN BUSINESSMAN IN HANOI WHO VISITED HO CHI MINH CITY IN EARLY APRIL AND WHO DESCRIBED THE CITY AS ENTIRELY SHUTTERED WITH EVEN THE OPEN AIR MARKETS CLOSED. THE VIETNAMESE AURTHOITIES WERE REPORTEDLY TAKING INVENTORY OF PRIVATE TRADERS' STOCK. ONE REPORT CUTTENTLY CIRCULATING IN HANOI INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME REISITANCE TO GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF BUSINESSES IN THE CHO LON SECTION OF HO CHI MINH CITY.

4. UNHCR OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY BEGIN TO PRESS THE ORGANIZATION TO ASSIST IN THE CARE OF KHMER REFUGEES IN THE SRV WHICH THE VIETNAMESE REPORTEDLY CLAIM NUMBER AS MANY AS 150,000. THESE UNHCR OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO BE ANXIOUS ABOUT PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR SRV KHMER REFUGEE PROGRAMS THAT MIGHT ENTAIL SRV TRAINING OF KHMER FOR REINSERTION INTO KAMPUCHEA AS ANTI-GDK GUERRILLAS (REFTEL).

5. PRELIMINARY PLANS ARE BEING MADE FOR A TEAM COMPOSED OF UNHCR, WFP, AND UNICEF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE THE KHMER REFUGEE PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, MINORITIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SRV-DK FIGHTING AND SRV CLOSURE OF HO CHI MINH CITY BUSINESSES POSE REFUGEE PROBLEMS FOR UNHCR  
**TAGS:** SREF, PGOV, PORO, PINS, VM, CB, (UNHCR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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